



# Newsrelease

City of Santa Clara



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Santa Clara Fire Department Kicks Off Fire Prevention Week  
with an Open House on October 6, 2007  
“Practice Your Escape Plan”**

The Santa Clara Fire Department will kick off Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, with several activities at their Training Center on Saturday, October 6, 2007. The day begins with a pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m.; a \$5 donation is requested to support the Santa Clara Firefighters' Foundation. Special ceremonies at 10 a.m. will reinforce the activities of Fire Prevention Week, emphasizing the national message to “Practice Your Escape Plan,” and providing information on how you can better protect your family from a fire. Visitors to the Open House will learn how to develop a fire escape plan, and to check and change their smoke detector batteries. The day will include tours of the fire station and meeting City of Santa Clara Fire Department personnel, exciting demonstrations such as fire suppression, auto-extrication, rappelling and displays until 2 p.m. Children will have an opportunity to see smoke, to hear the sound of a smoke detector, to feel a warm door, and practice escaping safely out the window of our Fire Safety Trailer. The event concludes at 2 p.m.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years, fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

At 1:30 p.m., there will also be a dramatic demonstration of the home fire danger posed by improperly cared for Christmas trees. A giant clock will time how long it takes (seconds) for two Christmas trees – one that has not been kept in water since being cut and one that has – to ignite and send flames surging through a replica room of a home. Local schoolchildren will be on hand to watch the demonstration, and to learn about fire safety during the holidays and every day. Thanksgiving is early this year, which increases the time many families will have Christmas trees in their homes. It also increases the danger of home fires from tinder dry trees that don't need much of a spark to burst into flames. A Christmas tree may require as much as a gallon of water of day, depending on its size and freshness. “No one wants to take the tree out of the home until the holiday is over, but a dry tree is an extreme fire hazard,” stated City of Santa Clara Fire Marshal Martin Von Raesfeld. “We think this demonstration will show how important fire safety can be during the holidays, and every day.” “We want everyone to have a safe holiday,” said Fire Chief Phil Kleinheinz.

The Santa Clara Fire Department Open House will be held at the Santa Clara Fire Department Training Center, located at 1900 Walsh Avenue in Santa Clara. For more information call (408) 615-4970.